

EXCISE

182

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1502, OCTOBER 27, 8 PM

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WHEN HANDING YOST THIS EVENING TEXT OF SYG'S APPEAL TO CASTRO AND AND CASTRO'S REPLY (SEE SEPTTEL) NARASIMHAN SAID SYG IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ACCEPTING CASTRO'S INVITATION. HE IS INCLINED TO FEEL HIS PRESENCE IN CUBA WOULD LOWER TENSION CONSIDERABLY BY PERSUADING AMERICANS MISSILES ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE USED AGAINST THEM AND CUBANS THAT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE INVADED WHILE UN SYG IS IN CUBA. HE INTERPRETS CASTRO'S REPLY MOREOVER TO INCLUDE AGREEMENT THAT CONSTRUCTION ON SITES WILL CEASE, THOUGH EXACT TIMING NOT YET CLEAR NOR IS QUESTION OPERABILITY OF MISSILES COVERED. YOST URGED NARASIMHAN TO ADVISE SYG CONTINUE PRESS THESE POINTS WITH BOTH CUBANS AND SOVS AS MATTERS OF UTMOST URGENCY WHICH MUST BE SETTLED IN SHORTEST TIME IF CRISIS IS NOT TO WORSEN.

SYG IS AT PRESENT THINKING OF GOING TO CUBA OCT 30 AND TAKING WITH HIM SUBSTANTIAL GROUP MAINLY COMPOSED OF TECHNICIANS WHO COULD BE USED AS EXPERT OBSERVERS AT MISSILE SITES IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED. TIME REQUIRED TO COLLECT THESE TECHNICIANS WAS ONE REASON FOR DELAYING UNTIL TUESDAY. SECOND REASON IS SYG'S DESIRE OBTAIN PRECISE PICTURE OF EXACTLY WHAT BOTH PARTIES INSIST ON HAVING AND ARE WILLING TO OFFER. NARASIMHAN SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE US POSITION SPELLED OUT IN LETTER TO SYG FROM PRESIDENT.

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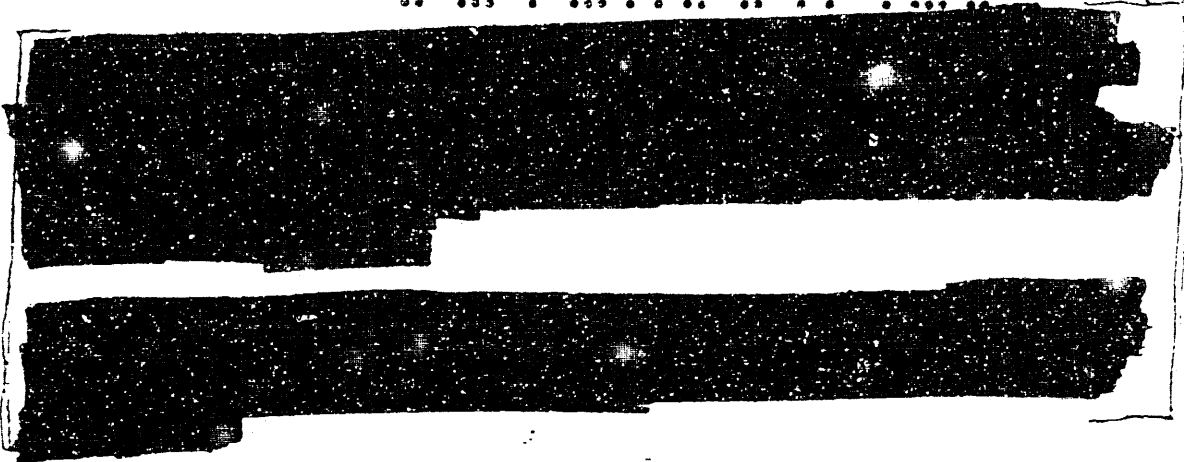
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